

O 280718Z SEP 09  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5292  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USEU BRUSSELS  
USMISSION UN ROME  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC  
CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
NSC WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS MANILA 002046

SIPDIS  
AIDAC

BANGKOK FOR USAID/OFDA REGIONAL ADVISOR A. DWYER  
USAID/W FOR DCHA/OFDA R. THAYER  
KATHMANDU FOR W. BERGER AND S. MCINTYRE, USAID/W FOR ANE/AA  
AND DCHA/FFP, STATE FOR EAP, GENEVA FOR N. KYLOH, USUN FOR  
OFDA REPRESENTATIVE, BRUSSELS FOR P. BROWN, ROME FOR  
USAID/OHA H. SPANOS, SECDEF FOR SOLIC, JOINT STAFF  
WASHINGTON DC FOR J3/J4/J5, PACOM FOR J3/J4/J5, NSC FOR P.  
MARCHAM

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [SOCI](#) [PREL](#) [KPAO](#) [SENV](#) [EAGR](#) [RP](#)

SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF DISASTER: TROPICAL STORM ONDOY  
CAUSES DEATHS AND HEAVY DAMAGE IN THE PHILIPPINES

11. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. PLEASE SEE PARA 4.

12. AS A RESULT OF THE TROPICAL STORM ONDOY DISASTER WHICH  
STRUCK THE PHILIPPINES ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2009, THE U.S.  
AMBASSADOR TO THE PHILIPPINES HAS DETERMINED THAT THE  
DISASTER IS OF SUFFICIENT MAGNITUDE THAT IT IS BEYOND THE  
CAPACITY OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO RESPOND  
ADEQUATELY, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT DESIRES AND WILL  
ACCEPT U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE, AND IT IS IN THE BEST  
INTEREST OF THE USG TO RESPOND. THE AMBASSADOR IS  
THEREFORE EXERCISING THE DISASTER ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY.  
POST REQUESTS A FUND CITE OF A TOTAL OF USD 100,000 TO  
PROVIDE DISASTER RELIEF VIA THE PHILIPPINES NATIONAL RED  
CROSS (PNRC) TO FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE STORM.

13. TROPICAL STORM ONDOY STRUCK THE PHILIPPINES ON THE  
MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2009, BRINGING SUSTAINED HEAVY  
RAINS ACROSS ALL OF THE REGIONS OF LUZON, ESPECIALLY THE  
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (METRO MANILA). ACCORDING TO THE  
NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATING COUNCIL (NDCC), AS OF  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2009, REPORTING DATA FOR METRO MANILA AND SIX  
PROVINCES IS ESTIMATED AT 294,555 PERSONS AFFECTED, 83  
PERSONS REPORTED DEAD, AND OVER 47,000 PERSONS IN 101  
EVACUATION CENTERS. HIGH FLOOD WATER LEVELS, IN SOME CASES  
MORE THAN ONE METER, RESULTED IN HEAVY DAMAGE TO THOUSANDS  
OF HOMES, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE STRANDED, AND TRAFFIC AT A  
NEAR STANDSTILL ON MOST MAJOR THOROUGHFARES. ON SEPTEMBER  
27, 2009 THE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND NDCC  
CHAIRMAN DECLARED A STATE OF NATIONAL CALAMITY IN THE METRO  
MANILA AREA AND 27 PROVINCES OF LUZON. SEARCH AND RESCUE  
EFFORTS CONTINUE ACROSS LUZON.

14. POST REQUESTS THAT USAID'S OFFICE OF US FOREIGN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA) RELEASE USD 50,000 FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELIEF EFFORTS UNDER THE AMBASSADOR'S AUTHORITY AND AN  
ADDITIONAL USD 50,000, FOR A TOTAL OF USD 100,000. THESE  
FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR ASSISTANCE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY  
FLOODING RESULTING FROM TROPICAL STORM ONDOY. IN  
COORDINATION WITH PNRC, THE ASSISTANCE WILL FUND THE  
PURCHASE OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD COMMODITIES (SUCH AS  
BLANKETS, PLASTIC MATS, AND WATER CONTAINERS) AND CLEANUP  
EFFORTS WITH A FOCUS ON METRO MANILA.

15. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION AS THE RAINS CONTINUE, COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH OFDA'S REGIONAL OFFICE IN BANGKOK AND PROVIDE UPDATES AS THE IMPACT OF THE STORM BECOMES CLEARER.

BT KENNEY